

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 186596

62

ORIGIN SS-05

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S E C R E T STATE 186596

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

EXCLUSIVE FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 5861, SENT SECSTATE AUGUST 4:

S E C R E T ATHENS 5861

EXDIS

REFS: (A) STATE 176590 (B) STATE 182812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, GR, US

SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECT OF AMMUNITION SHORTAGES
AT SOUDA BAY

1. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR INTERESTS WITH RESPECT TO GREECE
WILL BEST BE SERVED IF WE CAN HOLD TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM
ANY PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE SOUDA BAQ AMMUNITION
SHORTAGES, INCLUDING SUCH DETAILS AS TYPES OF ORDANCE
INVOLVED, WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE AND WHAT REMEDIAL STEPS
ARE BEING TAKEN. THEREFORE, SHOULD THE MATTER BECOME
PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE--IN WHOLE OR IN PART--WE WOULD FAVOR A
STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

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2. BEGIN DRAFT TEXT: IT IS NOT THE POLICY OF THE USG

(OR ALTERNATIVELY "WE DO NOT FEEL IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE USG") TO DISCLOSE OR DISCUSS PUBLICLY THE NATURE, LOCATION OR STATUS OF US MUNITIONS OR WAAPONS SYSTEMS STORED IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ARE INTENDED FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES. SHOULD A QUESTION EVER ARISA CONCERNING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SUCH MUNITIONS ARE STORED, DISPOSED OF AND/OR ACCOUNTED FOR, THE USG TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER GOVERNMENT OR GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WILL UTILIZE PROCEDURES STIPULATED IN RELEVANT AGREEMENTS TO RESOLVE THE MATTER. END DRAFT TEXT

3. IF ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED, WE WOULD RECOMMEND FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TO USE ON A STRICTLY "BACKGROUND," NON-ATTRIBUTABLE BASIS. BEGIN GUIDANCE: (1) NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE USG WOULD TAKE A MOST SERIOUS VIEW OF ANY ATTEMPT BY ANOTHER GOVERNMENT TO TAKE FOR ITS OWN USE MUNITIONS BELONGING TO THE USG AND, SHOULD SUCH A THING HAPPEN, WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION. (2) I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IN THE CASE TO WHICH YOU REFER, STEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE USG. END GUIDANCE. KUBISCH UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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